REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed

March 25, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 - 20 remain

pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13. Reconsideration and

allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 5, 7 – 14 and 16 - 20 stand rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Phan* in view of *Johnson*. Additionally, the

Office Action indicates that claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable in view of *Phan* in view of *Johnson*, and further in view of *Dan*. As set forth in

detail below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Turning first to *Phan*, Applicants respectfully agree with the Examiner's contention

that *Phan does not specifically teach associating a first number with a first actuator without*

accessing a menu. Additionally, the *Phan* reference discloses additional features that were

not addressed in the Office Action. Specifically, *Phan* teaches:

> In accordance with the invention, there are three types of address
> books: public address books (PAB), workstation address books (WAB) and
> shared workstation address books (SWAB). (*Phan*, at col. 9, lines 38 – 41).

> Preferably, the address books are in a standard database format, such as
> dBase IV format, and are accessed via CodeBase. There is preferably provided
> an editor utility which allows adding, deleting and modifying records in the
> tables which make up an address book. Preferably, too, one of the file servers
> in the network is selected by the administrator as an address book server.
> (*Phan* at col. 9, lines 56 – 62).

The PAB, preferably stored in file server 120, is visible to all users as read-only data. ***Only an administrator has privileges to create, modify and delete information in the PAB.*** The PAB is accessible from any user station on the network 100. To allow a walk-up user of the MFP 110a to send facsimile transmissions directly from the MFP 110a, the PAB is preferably also accessible from the control panel 240 of the MFP 110a. (Phan at col. 10, lines 38 – 45). (Emphasis Added).

Therefore, it is clear that *Phan* only contemplates modification of an address book by an administrator. This is in direct contrast to the language recited in Applicants' pending claims as will be described later.

Phan also discloses:

> In step 610, the user enters a phone number using the fixed number keys of the user input 230. The entered numbers appear in field 535. The user enters the phone number just as if he intended to send a facsimile. In this regard, the user preferably may enter plural phone numbers, for example, by first pressing a multi key 530 to indicate that a list of phone numbers is to be entered. Furthermore, the user preferably may also select entries and groups from available address books as discussed above. After the user enters each phone number, he presses an enter next key 545 to add the new phone number to the list and ready the display for the user's next entry.
>
> ***In step 615, the user presses a program soft key 540 on the screen 500, which activates a program mode in the MFP 110a. Next, the user selects a soft one-touch key 515 (step 620). The MFP 110a then display s a label entry screen (step 625) and allows the user to designate a label for the selected soft one-touch key 515 (step 630). The MFP 110a preferably displays a soft alphanumeric keypad from which the user may enter the label, and a soft key for the user to press when the user has finished entering the label. The label and the entered phone number(s) are then stored, along with their association to the selected soft one-touch key (step 640).***
>
> ***It can be seen that the process of assigning labels and phone numbers to a soft one-touch key is a database management process, with the labels and phone numbers comprising records in the database.*** Although the database could be stored in the MFP 110a, it is preferably stored in the Host 110b as part of the facsimile UI definition. (Phan at col. 11, line 53 – col. 12, line 14). (Emphasis Added).

Phan clearly describes the manner in which speed dial functionality is to be provided.

Turning next to *Johnson*, that reference involves a system, method and computer program for automated speed dialing. Specifically, *Johnson* discloses:

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The present invention is a system and method for automatically enabling telephone speed dial settings according to most recent office activity. *The history of office communications (called distributions), in first-in-first-out (FIFO) order, is used to map a corresponding telephone number to one of a set of identified speed dial settings.*

Without actually knowing or caring about a person's telephone number, a user is able to perform a simple speed dial to a person who recently called, left a phone message, sent mail, sent a fax, or printed a document on an attached printer. (Johnson at col. 1, lines 40 – 50). (Emphasis Added).

Therefore, *Johnson* also clearly teaches a particular manner in which speed dialing is to be accomplished. As set forth below, this manner is quite different than the features/limitations recited in the pending claims.

Turning now to the claims, claim 1 recites:

1.   A system for establishing a communication link with a first computing device, the first computing device having a phone number associated therewith, said system comprising:
        a second computing device having a speed-dial system, a first actuator and a menu, said computing device being configured to transmit image data, said menu being configured to enable programming of said second computing device, said speed-dial system being configured to:
        receive a first user input corresponding to actuation of said first actuator;
        in response to the actuation of said first actuator, determine whether a phone number is associated with said first actuator; and
        if a phone number is not associated with said first actuator, enable the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said menu such that, after the user associates a phone number with the first actuator, said second computing device speed-dials the phone number in response to actuation of said first actuator to establish a communication link with the first computing device.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references, either individually or in combination, are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 1. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the references do not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since dependent claims 2 – 12 incorporate

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all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 13, that claim recites:

13.   A method for establishing a communication link between a first computing device and a second computing device, said method comprising:
          providing a first actuator and a menu associated with the first computing device, the menu being configured to enable programming of the first computing device;
          receiving a first user input corresponding to actuation of the first actuator;
          in response to receiving the first user input, determining whether a phone number is associated with the first actuator;
          if a phone number is not associated with the first actuator, enabling the user to associate a first phone number with the first actuator without accessing the menu of the first computing device; and
          if a phone number is associated with the first actuator, speed-dialing the phone number to establish a communication link with the second computing device.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references, either individually or in combination, are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 13. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the references do not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since dependent claims 14 – 20 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 13, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 6 and 15, Applicants respectfully assert that *Dan* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations described above as lacking in the combination of *Phan* and *Johnson*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of *Phan* and *Johnson*, and further in view of *Dan*, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claims 6 and 15. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.
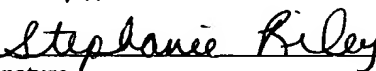
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 - 20 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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__Stephanie Riley__
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